



The Key Volunteer Network proudly presents

Issue 6 May/June 2006

THE ROSE

A publication created by the 1st Battalion 25th Marines Family Readiness Team

ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT

"One team, one fight" is a term you will hear echoing the streets of Fallujah because our Marines and Sailors of 1/25 and 2/25 consider themselves..."One team, One fight". We as family members, need to spend less time worrying about the political correctness of who are loved ones are and start recognizing that we are one team with one fight too. It matters not if you are the wife or mother, of a sailor or Marine, from 2/25 or 1/25 in Alpha company or in Echo company, Texas or Oklahoma...what matters is the military bond that we share. Above all, we know exactly what one another is going through without having to describe it. There is no greater asset for a loved one going through the deployment than other loved ones who share in the heart ache, worry and loneliness. Waiting at home can seem impossible at times and because of this, we need one another to pull us through. Let us refocus on one another just like our heroes do in far more difficult circumstances. Our 1/25 Marines love our 2/25 Marines and all the Marines love our docs! Again, we are one team, with one fight and as loved ones... it's time to come together back home to demonstrate the triumphant bond that will bring our men to victory. We are all in this together and to think otherwise is in direct distortion to how our men think, feel and fight. We are a family to our Men and a family to each other. Do not look for places to take offense in how words are placed but take comfort in terminology that shows there is no distinction between how I feel about the love of my life to how you feel about yours. I look to my left and to my right and vision an infinite line of side profiles made up of you, my fellow family members. You need not say a word as to how you feel and nor do I. Some people search their whole life for but one friend with those qualities yet you and I now have an entire Battalion. We are blessed with those who our God chose to experience this with. Now it's time we join as one and get us to the finish line, together. -Julie Delcourt

Key Volunteer Network Contact Quick Reference

Key Volunteer

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FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Landro

I write you this letter at what passes for the end of a day in Fallujah. I dare not say a typical day because there are no typical days. We have a surreal sense of time passing as we progress through this deployment and execute our mission. Nights and days matter more to some than others and days of the week are often disregarded. This Battalion is active in some form or another 24 hours a day until we come home. I cannot even begin to express the pride I have in the actions and deeds performed by the Marines and Sailors of this Battalion every day. We endure what few have the ability to endure and some pay the ultimate sacrifice. We have lost two of our brothers, and rest assured they are our brothers. Not acquaintances, not friends, not colleagues and not teammates, they are our brothers. Every Marine and Sailor mourns the loss of Sgt Matthew Fenton and Capt Brian Letendre. They were both killed in action against anti-coalition forces. Though we mourn their loss we also celebrate their lives. They were great Marines, volunteers both, who truly loved being Marines and serving their country. Their loss only serves to stiffen our resolve to carry on and acquit ourselves with the same sense of duty and honor that generations of Marines have done that have gone before us. We have also had Marines wounded, and to a man each one has asked me when can I return to my unit and get back with my brothers.

Let no one say that the sacrifice these Marines made is in vain. Spend one day in Fallujah and you will see a city reestablishing itself, building hope and prosperity for the vast majority of its citizens. Hospitals and schools are opening. Municipal services are growing stronger. Businesses are opening and hope is being restored. More and more the Iraqis are tackling the jobs at hand and the Army and Police Force grow stronger every day. This is all possible in our AO (Area of Operations) because of the efforts of your Marines and Sailors. Their daily heroics secure the hope of the Iraqi people. The Iraqis are a proud people and they want to build anew. Their Army performs side by side with us, sharing the danger and displaying heroics of their own. While appreciative of our presence, they want us to go home, but only after they are strong enough to stand on their own. Each day they get closer to that goal. What we do is inherently dangerous and though I cannot guarantee the absolute safety of every Marine, you have my steadfast commitment that the leadership of this Battalion and I will lead from the front in the execution of our mission. Your Marines and Sailors are making a difference.

Please know how profoundly appreciative each and every one of us is of the support and love we receive from home. We are often distracted by our assignment in expressing that appreciation, yet it burns stronger than you can imagine. We appreciate the sacrifices each and every one of you is making. We understand the fear and anxiety you experience, yet our mission must come first. For it is only through the complete and total professional performance of every Marine and Sailor that we will come through this together. I have every faith and confidence in your loved ones and we have the same in each other. It is amazing that two months have gone by since our arrival and we are about to pass the halfway mark on the entire activation. To us time is passing quickly but to you I know it must be agonizingly slow. Celebrate where you can and look forward to the many years of making us pay you back for putting up with our service. Celebrate the birth of children, loved one's birthdays and anniversaries in our absence. I know that I have already missed my youngest daughter's birthday, my wife's birthday, our anniversary and mother's day. I will soon miss the birth of my son in June and my oldest daughter's birthday before I return. And mine is but one of a thousand stories. The story I like the most is the fact that there were certain people from outside of this Battalion who thought we should not have had that last opportunity to come home before we left for Iraq. That it would be a distraction, but we fought hard to make it happen. The good news is that I have heard of at least a half dozen instances where families are expecting the precious gift of a new child as a result of our chance to be with family and I can think of no greater argument to prove that it was the right thing to do. Take care of each other as we do, for we are one family in this endeavor.

Semper Fidelis

LtCol Christopher Landro

FROM THE BATTALION SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Bradley Trudell

Our mission is going well here in Iraq. Despite the great things we are doing there is a price, and we have been apportioned some sadness. We have suffered our first casualties. We have lost two of our Marines killed and several wounded. Our hearts are broken but our spirit is not. In the city streets and alleys, on the roads and in the fields our Marines and Sailors are acquitting themselves daily with valor and professionalism equal to our predecessors and worthy of the reputation we have inherited. In the maintenance, communication, admin, intel and logistic shops long hours are being worked ensuring our equipment and operations are the best they can be and ready when needed.

Our Corpsman and Doctors have been tested and found to be superlative in providing care to your Marines as well as compassion to the enemy wounded. They have also provided medical care to local civilians when opportunities arise.

From home we have received joyous news of several births. Packages, letters and photos continue to roll in and provide us with that nourishment of knowledge that we are supported by so many good friends and family back home. We have been able to carve out some time for relaxation to read a little, watch a movie or play some games.

On our patrols we are geared up with protective armor, navigational equipment, radios, weapons and ammo and water. In addition to all of that your Marines often carry along if possible, candy and toys for the local kids. We always return to our base mission accomplished with all of our gear, usually all of our ammo, less water and no candy and toys! That is the nature of your Marines and Sailors.

We will continue the mission.... Semper Fidelis

Brad Trudell

SgtMaj 1st Battalion 25th Marines

Fallujah, Iraq

FROM THE BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Mark J. Bishop, USNR

As of this writing the battalion has conducted one memorial service and is readying for another. The first days of May brought much grief and loss. We mourn for Capt. Brian S. Letendre and Sgt. Matthew J. Fenton. For the young men of 1/25 the loss of brothers-at-arms is overshadowed by the loss of two friends.

The memorial held for Capt. Letendre was a true honoring of his life. He was a model to all of what it means to be a good and caring father and husband. We could never sum up all he means to the men with whom he served. Such a feat is impossible. Still the essential opportunity to gather together in a formal way to recognize the way his life touched others was well to be done.

Sgt. Fenton's death left the battalion without an essential personality. He demonstrated a gruff exterior that covered his servant's heart. I personally will miss the long conversations about nothing and everything when I visited the Supply Shop.

How are the men doing? The answer is simply they are caring for each other and persevering to accomplish the mission. Each man handles such things in his own way but they do not handle them alone. Whether they are aware of it or not they are grieving together and persevering together. Each picking-up the other, not to move on and forget, but moving forward ever to remember. In every one of the services I presided over since May 3rd, the men have asked to pray for Brian Letendre and Matthew Fenton; and, we always pray for their families.

This painful chapter of the deployment will come to an end. But, like any important chapter we will come back to it, to learn more about the fallen and ourselves.

I pray for you, the 1/25 family, each day; and trust in your daily prayers that sustain us.

Blessings,
Fr. Marc Bishop



Chaplain Mark J. Bishop USNR
1st BN 25th Mar H&S Co
Unit 72195
FPO AE 09509-2195

TINA MCINTOSH—PROUD NAVY CORPSMAN WIFE

Well we are half-way there folks!!! I hope spring has brought many good things to you all! As Father's day quickly approaches let's make sure we remember to get those packages out there early to our Marines & Sailors! Mail speeds up for no one nor Holiday! Fathers Day package ideas? Well bug spray, bug spray, and um....bug spray! They are out in full force! Sun screen is another welcomed item. The temperatures are rising and our guys need all the protection they can get! Also powdered drink mix would be appreciated to keep them hydrated on those hot days! Our Sailors have been raised well I must say....they have been sharing! So send extra items because they do share with those they serve with. Reminder to anyone that has moved out of your area for this deployment. Capt. Norcross has asked me to pass along the message from Newport to make sure you have contacted Tricare to let them know your new address. You must be put into the new area for paperwork to go smoothly and be covered. When you return to your duty area you can call them back and switch back.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL OUR DADS!!

My Daddy

Lord, there's a daddy I love,
now he's far away.
He's my first thought in the morning,
then throughout the day,
I think about my daddy
and the cross he chose to bear,
to fight for our security,
for freedom everywhere.
Lord, at times I'm very frightened
by the evil that I see.
My faith seems, oh, so small
and I want him here with me.
Help me, Lord, to trust you,
that your plan is for the good,
and all things will work together
exactly as they should.

Lord, be with my daddy,
keep him in your care.
Help us each to carry
the cross we have to bear.
Give me strength to face the future.
Give him courage in the fight,
help us trust in you alone,
Help us do what's good and right.
Lord, I know you've won the victory,
and your sovereign plan will be.
I pray, if its within your perfect will, bring my daddy home to me.



ON BEHALF OF THE ALPHA COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

Alpha Company Update

They have landed! For those of you who are not aware, the Alpha Company First Sergeant and several other delayed Marines have officially arrived in Kuwait and are expected to be settled into their firm base soon. 1stSgt Lodi underwent intense physical therapy on his back in order to be fit for full duty in serving along side of his fellow Alpha Company Marines and Sailors. He is very enthusiastic about his arrival and has literally “hit the ground running” toward his troops. It was very difficult for him to be apart from his company of Marines and Sailors and he brings new and intense energy to their fight. He has the Alpha Company Marines and Sailors charged for his arrival and they all look forward to taking care of business. 1stSgt Lodi will be contributing to the newsletter for the next issue and as many of you may have already noticed, will be sure to post ALL of the recent promotions within the newsletter for the Alpha Company families to find pride and pleasure in. Your patience and support in his delay has been remarkable as family members and is part of the glue that has held this company together. I think we can all agree that we look forward to his future remarks and wish 1stSgt Lodie and his men a safe and successful tour of duty. May God Bless you and keep you safe.



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar A Co
UNIT 72180
FPO AE 09509-2180

FROM YOUR ALPHA COMPANY KEY VOLUNTEER FOR MASSACHUSETTS

KATHLEEN COVEL -PROUD MARINE MOM

KEEP IN TOUCH: Temperatures are over 100+ degrees; the average basic combat load is 80+ lbs. Jack, a five year old neighbor, summed it up: **Marines are "Incredibles!"** I respect you, the honest, hardworking families lightening any additional weight of stress by dealing with whatever comes up at home, including a great deal of rain in May! Remember at this time of year to send photos of year end school and sports activities to your guys. Also, thanks for your messages of kindness. You make my day! Kath. Covell kcovell@comcast.net or cell 978-793-0341.

HOLIDAYS: To make holidays a bit easier and less stressful, try taking things off your mind and writing in a journal. For Mother's Day, I wrote: This is what I say when I SPEAK MOM: I'm going to give you until the count of three, ok four - Your grandmother was not like this when I was a kid, she was strict, definitely not funny - Oh soup, I said soup? - It's all fun and games until you get hurt - I've enough love for both of us - 'I don't know' is not an answer - If everyone jumped off a bridge, would you? - Someday your face will freeze like that - Your kids wrote, wrote home from camp? - Look me in the eye, did you do your best, then this report card is fine - Money doesn't grow outback, on trees, ok it doesn't grow - Were you born in a barn, shut the door, not so hard - I'm not talking to hear my own voice - Oh, now I'm talking to myself - If you swallow a water melon seed, one will grow in your stomach - Don't ask WHY?! - So it's raining? You're not sugar, you won't melt - Your braces look fine, I can hardly notice - Tired? How can you be tired? - You have nothing to do? - Tattoos? Both of you? - How many soccer teams? Traveling teams? - Black Diamonds, no ski on the SMALLER hills - Mountain bike? Why can't you ride a bike, bike? - I get out at 5; pick up game is at 6, when do we eat? - Leftovers are fun! - No food fights with the peas please! - I know you like to wrestle with your Dad, but you'll break him, put him down - If I ask nicely, will you slow this car down a bit, now a bit more - What, I am not using my mom foot for a break! - My arm, well that's just a mom arm, it flies out automatically when you stop - You're never alone - Love you tall as trees, high as the moon, wide as the sky - Look up, we will share the same sky!



CARE PACKAGES: Popcorn Factory.com has always been a great place to look for fun food care packages. I chose something, but couldn't place the order online to send to my Marine? I called them at 1-888-216-0235. I was told I couldn't order online with an FPO address, I must place my order over the telephone, and spell everything out for them to enter. They were very pleasant and a box of decorated cookies is on the way!
ALPHA CO. BOX: First Graders in Stow contributed U.S. State's drawings and notes. Little artists made an American Flag banner with blue handprints for stars and red handprints in rows for stripes. Peanuts, Red Sox decals, and funny-faced balls were provided along with a case of Cracker Jacks, by Mary V., proud Grandmother of a Marine. The 4H, Lancaster, wrote Memorial Day Cards. The Piccolo Mondo School, Leominster, made beautiful patriotic, supportive cards. Rich C. provided red, white and blue Tootsie Rolls. Thanks for contributions to A Co. box!

POSTIVE ATTITUDES WELCOME! Now is the time to surround yourself with people who are supportive. Lynn says each day she wakes up and decides to think positively! Steer clear of negative attitudes, gossip, rumors, and people who have a tendency to bring your spirits down. Grant yourself permission at this time to distance yourself from negativity while maintaining your pride and integrity with a sense of accomplishment!



FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

FROM THE BRAVO COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Garry A Hubbard

Hello,

All of the Marines of Bravo Company are doing well. Another month has past for the "Boys of Company B". One day closer to making that trip back to the great nation of United States of America. The Marines will have made the half point of their deployment starting 01 June 2006. The Marines in the Company have been holding their own. They have been working hard throughout the month.

Since the last newsletter, the Company's Area of Operation has changed so now most of the Marines are standing posts either around the Railroad Station or down in the city of Al Fallujah, Iraq. Some of the Marines are still getting out into the city for vehicle and/or foot patrols, but not as much as when they first arrived at the Railroad Station, Al Fallujah, Iraq

The Marines throughout the month have visited a few of the schools in their Area of Operation. They got a chance to interact with the kids of the schools. The Marines found out real quick that they had easy going to school in United States. Most of the schools here in Al Fallujah, Iraq do not have much for school supplies. The Marines have been working hard to obtain some school supplies for some of the schools. The Marines found out real quick that kids are all the same wherever you go around the world. They love candy and sports like soccer. Everywhere we go throughout our Area of Operation there were kids that would ask us for soccer balls and candy. Some of the kids have been asking the Marines for things to write with like pens, pencils etc. but most of the kids have been asking the Marines for soccer balls (boys).

The Marines also got a chance to interact with the local people of Al Fallujah, Iraq. Most of the Marines are learning really quickly that it is a different type of life for the people of Iraq in reference to culture. Most of the Marines have adapted well to the change in their life style with living here in Al Fallujah, Iraq. The military has done as much as they can with providing your Marine with really good protective gear but now it is a different story with getting the Marine to wear the gear properly. Some of the Marines have to be reminded how to wear the gear properly in order to protect them from injuries. So I am looking for your help to remind your Marine to wear his gear properly in order to protect him from harm.

The Marines of Bravo Company have been working a very busy schedule, so I ask you as a family member, wife, son, daughter, or friend, to please continue to write to your Marine to keep his spirits high. I know a lot of the time when the Marine is out on post here in Al Fallujah, Iraq, he thinks about home and by not receiving any updated information about what is going on back home. He begins missing home even more than normal. So please, sit down and write your Marine a letter. I've seen a lot of boxes come through the mail with goodies but there has been a lot less letter mail for some of the Marines. Moto-Mail has worked out great but there are still some of you out there who have not used it.

I thank all of you in advance for supporting your Marine throughout this deployment and I ask you to don't forget about your Marine, because now is the time he needs your support the most. Another month has past by the time you receive this newsletter and your Marine will be over half way through his deployment.

Thanks for all of your help, thoughts, and prayers.



Semper Fidelis!!

First Sergeant Hubbard, Gary A

Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 25th Marines



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar Bravo Co
UNIT 72185
FPO AE 09509-72185



LEFT: Cpl Clinton Sgt McLaughlin watching an incoming sandstorm... this picture captures just how fast these sandstorms approach our Forward Operating Base..



RIGHT: Blackwater Bridge in Al Fallujah, Iraq. This picture is taken at dusk within the area of Operations of Bravo Company.



LEFT: LCpl Dee and Sgt Pugliese are kneel to the height of the beautiful children of Iraq. On their patrol the Marines of Bravo Company are greeted by many of the children within their area of operations and a warm welcome is indeed what our Marines receive from these children.

FROM YOUR BRAVO COMPANY KEY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

MICHELLE PROULX -PROUD MARINE WIFE

Hello to the Families and Friends of Bravo Co,

The Bravo Family day was a huge hit because of all of your support. It was a great turn out and lots of fun had by all. I will say, I was a little nervous in the morning when the wind was almost taking me away with the balloons. It was so cold; we could not feel our fingers. Once 11 O'clock came the sun was shining bright and the wind was no where to be found. It was great to see all the children playing ball and the older children (men) playing flag football and volleyball. The kids seemed to love trying on the gear and climbing on top of the fire truck. It was nice to watch the families take and color pictures to send to their Marine or Sailor. It was great to see the families I knew and to meet the ones that I had only talked to. I was able to put a face with the voice. All and all, it was nice to see everyone talking, smiling and just relaxing. I would like to thank all the Key Volunteers, I & I staff and all the Families and Friends! You made this day a great one.

Hooray!!! We are almost into June and that means half way through the deployment. That is something to get excited about! It is just about time to start the cookouts and the trips to the beach, lakes and camping. Take as many pictures and video as you can to show your Marine or Sailor all the things that the kids and family did. To see their child jumping the waves or help pitching that tent that even dad had a hard time doing last year is sure to bring a smile to their face. Just savor every memory you can to share with them.

I know that we all are not hearing from our Marine or Sailor as much as we would like, but please keep in mind that they are busy and there is only one phone for the company. They are getting the MOTOMAIL and it is a huge hit with the guys, they love it. So keep it going!!!

You all are doing a great job holding things down on the home front, keep it up! Your Marine or Sailor is just as proud of you as you are of them.

Again please keep the communications coming it is helping us all get through this together. If you have any changes in your address, phone or e-mail please send them to your Key Volunteer.

Thank you all again for helping me get through this. Please call or e-mail me if you need anything. Please make sure to check out the 1/25 website: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

God Bless all the Men & Woman fighting to give us the Freedom that we have.

Take care,
Michelle Proulx

michelle.proulx@yahoo.com
(603)841-5196 Home
(603)817-4125 Cell

**** Please read the Rose completely, it is a great resource of information. It is full of events that may be close to your home. It will give you a chance to get out there and meet new friends!*

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

FROM THE CHARLIE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Ben Grainger

Today's Corner Comes from Autumn Letendre, Wife of Capt Brian Letendre, who died in combat operations in Iraq.

Dear Friends and Family,

I write this letter with a pain I never imagined could exist. It was just last week that I was telling you our story and what a story we have. Although I feel cocooned with extreme sadness I could not be any prouder. Brian loved the Marine Corp and all that encompassed its purpose. He believed that being in Iraq was right and that no one should resist the chance to liberate another human being even if that meant putting his life on the line. He leaves our three year old son Dillon- a blessing and mirrored image of Brian. I can not find a word with enough meaning, enough passion to explain how great of a father Brian was. Dillon loves his daddy so much and has truly lost an American Hero.

I am smiling right now as I reminisce our first date, our first kiss, the day he told me he loved me, when he proposed etc. Wow, what happiness fills me with these thoughts and how I want to tell everyone how great he was.

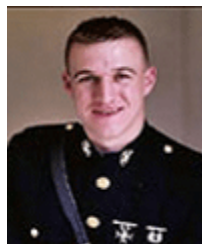
(To those of you separated by deployment)

As our news shocks and terrifies you, please stay strong for your men. They need your strength as they must complete their mission. Do not let fear take away the great bond that deployment can create between you and your spouse. I encourage you to write them and write often. Tell them how you truly feel and live with extreme pride to be married to one of the few.

I have no regrets as I always told Brian how proud of him I was and still am. I may have lost the love of my life, but I have gained a life and story that few in this great country have.

Thank you for your prayers

Autumn Letendre





Rank/ Complete Name

1st BN 25th Mar Charlie Co

UNIT 72190

FPO AE 09509-2190

FROM THE HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Leon Rideout

Greetings to our family and friends back home. H&S Company continues a high operational tempo with heavy hearts as we keep the Fenton Family in our thoughts and prayers. We ask all of you to do the same.



the Sixth Chapter of John's Gospel: *"This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should loose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day."*

H&S Company continues to meet the challenges that are put in front of us with motivation ingenuity and plain hard work. You can all be proud of how your Marines and Sailors are performing.

H&S Company Corpsman have been extremely busy serving side by side with our Marines by taking on many other duties and assignments that help with in the efforts. I understand that there is some concern that our docs were being left out of our updates But rest assured they are very much part of the team and are always included.

As always the support through the mail has been outstanding and is truly appreciated Thanks for all you do.

We would like to welcome a new addition to the H&S Company family a daughter Ashley to Cpl and Mrs. Rua.



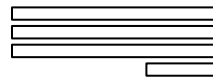
MARINES EARNING PROMOTIONS THIS MONTH ARE:

SSgt. Ferguson

LCpl. Nazzaro

LCpl. Ohse

1st Sgt Rideout



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar H&S Co
Unit 72195
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First Sergeant Leon Rideout (cont'd)



Here is Sgt Lauterbach with the only sunflower in Fallujah. Thanks Sophia!



Some of Marines where able to attend a USO performance by Country Music's own Toby Keith! Toby Keith is the recording Artist of several patriotic songs such as "American Soldier" as well as "Angry American"

- Thanks TOBY!



A sandstorm whips through the firm base area...



H & S Company Marines are near a road block

It Doesn't Get Any Better than This....

I know we all get a secret thrill out of other peoples' miseries. It makes us feel as if our lives aren't so bad after all. When your Marine is away for an entire year, it is easy to think that you live the worst life ever. To cheer everyone up as we near our Marines' half-way mark of deployment, I thought I would share a snapshot of the last two months of my life.

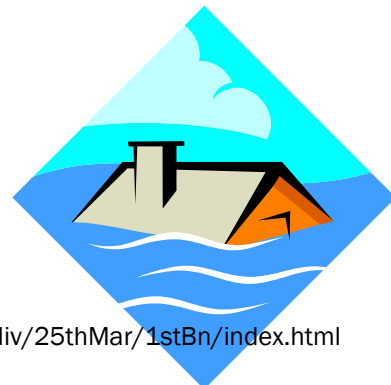
As some of you may know, I made a recent move to Methuen back in late April. Take it from me, it's not fun packing an entire apartment by yourself. For example, I know that all our Marines are lugging around 300+ pounds of military equipment in Iraq, but I can easily say that I packed about 500 more pounds of it in U-Haul boxes last month.

There was so much stuff to be packed, I was tempted to have a yard sale to sell all my husband's stuff. I figured he would never notice when he returned.

I reserved a 17-foot truck for the weekend of the move. When I got to the rental place, I learned that they only had a 10-footer available. I knew that it would never do. There's nothing like making three trips from Nahant to Methuen at \$1.79 a mile plus fuel costs! Luckily, I had the help of family and friends.

On another note, I am sure you have all heard of the recent flooding and rain in the Merrimack Valley area. Guess whose basement was flooded with at least six inches of water? I had only owned the home for two weeks. I thought to myself: if this is what home ownership is all about, I want out. To make matters worse, the entire area was out of sump pumps. I was up in arms. Fortunately, my sister knew of someone who had a spare and we got all the water out. That night, after almost fourteen hours of working with the wet/dry vac and the sump pump, I went to bed exhausted when I heard the breaking news on one of the local stations. They predicted the dam in Methuen was about to give way. Another sleepless night. I kept picturing my new home completely submerged underwater and having no flood insurance on my homeowner's policy. Turns out, the dam never breached, so I have another thing to thank God for!

In retrospect, I am glad I can laugh at all this. It can give you some real insight of a day in the life of a Marine wife whose husband is deployed for a year. Something we can all relate to nowadays! Just when you are thinking the worse, remember, that better days are ahead!



DANIELLE SABOURIN—PROUD MARINE WIFE

This is a bittersweet month for me, Mark and I are celebrating our 7th anniversary. Seven years ago we were dancing in each others arms in the grand ballroom in Newport's Rosecliff mansion; today he is on the battlefields of Iraq and I am here keeping the home fires burning. One thing hasn't changed though, the love we have for each other. If you are reading this Mark, I love and adore you. I am so honored to be your wife....Happy Anniversary.

To the moms -- this may have been be a tough one for you this year; maybe your Marines or Sailors have never missed a Mothers Day, or maybe your children weren't able to go out with Daddy to pick flowers for you; whatever your situation, please know you are so special and should be so proud. To the moms of Marines and Sailors, on Mothers Day I hope you took a moment to reflect on your son or daughters life and realize - they are truly heroes, and they couldn't have gotten there without you. They probably learned their honor, courage and commitment from you long before they stepped onto the yellow footprints at Parris Island. To the wives who are moms to our Devil pups...do not underestimate the appreciation your husband has in knowing that he can go over there and do his job knowing full well that you are an outstanding mother, and will be able to handle anything. You too should be proud of that.

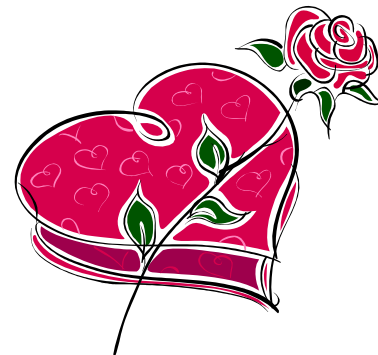
To the wives -- Happy military spouse day! It was celebrated the Friday before Mother's day - so do something special for yourself! You may not know it, but your friends and family see you as the strongest woman they know... and you are! I am including a passage that was given to me by a fellow Marine wife and I loved it -- so enjoy and thanks Sophia L!!

Profile of a Military Wife ? She probably never saw herself loving a man who was in the military, but she loves him regardless. Her penmanship has improved over the last few months, due to the excessive letter writing she has been doing. She cries a lot, because she misses the man she swore to love. Her life isn't complete without him.. She looks very tired, because of her many nights without sleep, due to a late night phone call that never came or a call that came and kept her up all night, just because she heard his voice, she is too overjoyed to sleep. As a wife, she is classified as a dependent, but she is totally independent. She tends to her household, her school work, and her job, all without her husband. She manages to wear a smile, even though inside she's crying. She understands that the man she loves has to go far away. She understands that he can be taken away from her in a moments notice. She feels a great sense of pride and probably cries whenever she hears the National Anthem, sees a flag blowing in the breeze, or watches the news and hears about another death in Iraq or Afghanistan she worries that it might be him. She goes weeks without a call or a letter, but she writes him whenever she gets a free moment. She knows how to convert civilian time into military time. Before he left she used to complain if she didn't see him for a day or two, but now she gets annoyed when she hears someone complaining about not seeing their boyfriends. She may not have seen him for months but she remembers everything about him, every scar he has, the way he smells, whether or not he snores. She has every picture of him and they are out and in frames, she stares at them for hours on end. She has read every letter at least 40 times. Half her wardrobe is based on his military branch. She owns lots of stuff that has his branch on it. She never knew that she could love the color camouflage green, tan, navy blue, red or black so much. You may not know what she looks like, but as soon as you see her in the store you'll know that her husband is a world away without even having to speak to her. She's the one who's half frowning half smiling, she has at least one Support out Troops pin that she wears and one that's on her car. Even though her husband is a half a world away, she still manages to go on with her life, as he would want her to. Next time you see her, you'll know her, thank her for what the man she loves is doing. She will greatly appreciate it and she will smile and thank you, and just because you thanked her she smiles the rest of the day.

Have a great month!

Warmest regards,

Danielle



First Sergeant Charles Delcourt

Hello to all!!! This past month seems to have flown by for us; we all hope it has for you as well. Before I forget, thanks to all the families for everything you do for us. The little, and sometimes big things, you do mean so much to all of us. Thank you from all of us. I think I have figured out how to get some pictures to you all. If there are pictures in this issue from Weapons, then I have succeeded. If not, I will be seeking alternative methods of media communications!! We seem to be settling into a pretty good routine, allowing the Marines some down time every couple of days. Our operation tempo is high, and the number of missions/patrols each day varies from six on up. For a short period this past month we expanded our AO (Area of Operation) a little further north to help out another battalion working over here. I think the only thing left for us to get used to, is the heat!!! Temperatures are starting to rise and so is our water intake. All of the Marines have been doing a phenomenal job, and everyone from the command level and up is very proud of them. Be sure to check out the new battalion website, address is

<http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn> . Interested in buying a new car or motorcycle??? Perhaps



surprise someone for homecoming?? Check out Exchange New Car Sales from AAFES. I have three internet addresses, but don't know all the details. Addresses are www.encs.com, encsme@military.com, or craigoshaugnessy@eircom.net. They sell Ford, GM, Chrysler/Jeep, and Harley Davidson. Never hurts to look if you are in the market. This benefit is for deployed service members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members of Sgt Fotiadis. Sgt Fotiadis, from all reports, is doing very well and is now located back in the good old U.S. of A. He was hit by a piece of shrapnel just above his eye and is recovering on home turf with no long term effects. His good natured personality will not be available for us to enjoy in person until this fall, and we miss him.

Sgt Fotiadis standing next to PFC Markbot hee hee...

Congratulations to the following Marines who were promoted to Lance Corporal this month: **Ohse, Thurlow, and Umbarger.**

Promoted to Corporal was **Stubbs**, and **Wycoff** to Sergeant.

In addition, Sergeant **Bandini** was promoted to Staff Sergeant and Sergeant **Feliciano** was frocked to Staff Sergeant.

Staff Sergeant **Ewing** was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his tour at Marine Barracks, Washington.

One last thing, Happy belated Mother's Day to all mothers and mothers to be!!

Until next time...



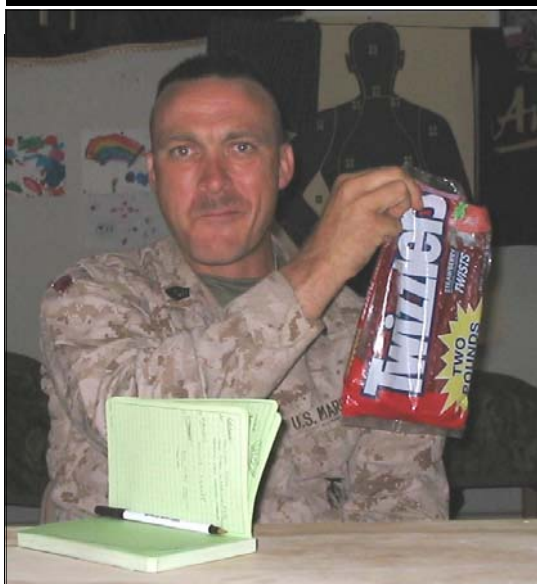
Rank/ Complete Name

1st BN 25th Mar WPNS Co

Unit 72200

FPO AE 09509-72200-2200

First Sergeant Charles Delcourt (cont'd)



Yes, it's true... He runs on Twizzlers and there are no complaints here...they ship easy!
Thanks for the pic 1stSgt Grainger!



LCpl Whittles is the Radio Operator for Weapons Company



The Weapons Co, Marines titled this picture...
"all in a days work"...



The Weapons Company Marines post a little "motto" on their board



This robot has been officially indoctrinated into the Marine Corps through the Weapons Company Marines proudly carrying the rank of PFC Markbot...



Captain Hasheider calling in a hard days work

Hello Families,

Can you believe we are almost at the half way mark? Back in March when our Marines & Sailors left, I thought May would never get here! Finally the weather is getting nicer & its time to get out & get active. Today I made a big step & went out & bought Roller Blades for me & my kids well what a TRIP! We had so much fun.....we are starting off small, in empty parking lots since I haven't been in skates for about 15 years, but as for my little hockey player he showed me a thing or two! My daughter is a little wimpy but it did her a world of good! It is like riding a bike, you just never forget! Next week we will graduate to maybe a bike path then when we are really good we will hit the Charles River! My big fear is once you're on them no matter how far you go you still have to get back to your original destination so I don't want to push it to much! It really does make you feel better believe it or not, not only are you getting exercise but your mind is concentrating on not falling so in a weird way you kind of forget about everything in our crazy lives that are going on & God knows we all need a break! (Not a leg that is!)

I hope you all are doing well, and it is the season for Graduations, First Communions, Weddings, etc so keep yourselves busy & the time will go by each day that is done is a day closer to them being home! Just lets keep our Men always close to our heart, talk about them all the time, let everyone know how proud we really are so no one will ever forget what they are doing for all of us!

Remember any changes send them my way!

Till next month.....

Take Care & God Bless,

Charlotte Wills

Key Volunteer

1/25 Weapons CO.

781-894-1787

charlottewills@rcn.com

JULIE DELCOURT—PROUD MARINE WIFE

July 2006

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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Independence
Day

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Cookbook
Entries due

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SAVE THE KEY DATE!!!

♥ July 9th—all cookbook requests and contributions are to be submitted no later than July 9th

♥ September 24th - Boston Marine Corps Honor Run 5k & 10 K

Attention Runners: Please let me know if you are interested in joining the "1/25" Team

We have officially started our training schedule so sign up soon!

The Battalion Wide Family day that will celebrate the half way point of our troops within the 1/25 deployment will be held at the Boxborough Holiday Inn in Boxborough, Massachusetts. The festivities will kick off at noon time on Saturday, June 24th. We have a traditional "cook out style" menu planned with hamburgers and hot dogs for all. The facility includes access to the sand volleyball court, baseball diamond, indoor pool and Grand Ball room area for socializing. We are certainly looking forward to a great turnout for this event but accuracy is our biggest concern. If you plan on attending, please understand that if you commit to the attendance then we will be charged and expect you to be there. We can not allow family members to attend without a previous response as we are required to give a headcount for appropriate amounts of food and seating arrangements. We hope to see you there!!!



(I-495 Massachusetts EXIT 28)

Holiday Inn at Boxborough Holiday Woods

242 ADAMS PLACE
BOXBOROUGH, MA 01719
UNITED STATES

Hotel Reservations: 1 800 423 0908
Hotel Front Desk: 1-978-2638701



FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

ON-LINE INFORMATION...

**Got a need to Read ?
Check out the 1/25 website!**

1.) Log onto www.mfr.usmc.mil

2.) Choose...

- ♦ The 4th Marine Division - the 4thmardiv
- ♦ The 25th Marine Regiment-25thMar
- ♦ The 1st Battalion- 1stBn

And you're there!

GO there!



THE COMMANDANT & THE SERGEANT MAJOR OF

THE MARINE CORPS PAY ANOTHER VISIT!

Pictures should be posted soon to the www.usmc.mil site of our men having a visit from the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps! They came to the front lines to see em'!!! That's very impressive! From the homepage, look on the left hand side of your page and choose the "Commandants Photo Gallery". It will be posted by date and should be dated for a visit around May 28th or 29th. What a day to spend Memorial Day...in combat with the Commandant and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps! Ooh Rah!

A little Riddle...

How do you make an egg Roll?

Answer : You push it!

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

MITT TEAM 1/25

One Team One Mission



MITT TEAM OUTLET

MAY 10, 2006

MITT TEAM ARRIVES IN RAMADI

Since we have left the Phoenix Academy, we have linked up with the team we are replacing with a long due reception. We are living in a camp with our Iraqi counterparts. The team members are working diligently to take over their counterparts role on the team. The team has currently finished the RIP.

We are running at super sonic speed to train our counterparts. Since we have been here we have shared meals, stood watch, and conducted mobile foot patrols, combat operations all as one unit. We have been making great progress in building our relationship with our Iraqi counterparts, which will make our mission successful.

We have suffered two losses on our team. Captain Brian Letendre and Captain Waylon White. Brian or Waylon will never be replaced nor forgotten. We pray daily for their families and friends. Captain Waylon White is recovering from his injuries in Texas at this time. These two Warriors will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,

MITT 1/25

TEAM LEADER COMMENTS

Dear Friends: There are no words to express the great sorrow that we all feel because of the loss of Captain Letendre. He was and for ever will be the heart and soul of our team. He stands for everything that is right in this world and defended against all that is wrong. He provided to every team member such a sense of confidence and strength—and we will call on that strength to accomplish our mission the way Brian would have done it with honor and courage.

We also pray for a rapid recovery for Captain White. He too is a true American hero and fought like a lion during the attack then, despite his wounds, went to his fallen best friend to try to save him. Get better Waylon—we are with you just as Brian is here with us. Strength and honor.

Semper Fi—LtCol Stillings

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

PROMOTIONS

**MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT
JOSE GUILLEN**



**GUNNERY SERGEANT
STEVEN DAVIS**



IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN BRIAN LETENDRE



A HUSBAND



A FATHER



A MARINE



AND A TRUE WARRIOR

TEAM WISH LIST

THE LIST:

If you wish to send packages to your love ones this section will provide a list of those items needed to complete our mission or make our lives a little more bearable.

Monster Drinks and Dog Treats for Raider

TEAM 1/25
1 MHG MTT 10
UNIT 42710
FPO AP 96426-2710



Team Mutt "Raider"

Key Volunteer Network
1st Battalion 25th Marines
4th Marine Division
53 Quebec Street
Devens RFTA
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432-4424



Mailing Address

*A very Happy Birthday to our extended Marine Family Members who
celebrate a Birthday in the Month of May*

*Liem Nguyen
Bonnie Peterson
James MacConnell
Karen Cote
Kim Ly
Jim Wittmer
Shannon Moore
John Harper
Nicole Rocha*



*Arthur Thomas
Judy Duffy
Kathleen Covel
Charlotte Wills
Joseph Mahoney
Jamie Chambers
Lormega Esperance
Kim Beresin
Tina McIntosh*

**DID WE MISS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
LET US KNOW AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU TOO!**

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>